(e) if so, the names of the organisations which have done commendable service in this field and details of the success achieved by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) A so called Parliament for Children was organised by Global Campaign for Education an international non-governmental organisation, during 8-10 November 2003. Its concluding session was attended by Director General, UNESCO, also Main themes reportedly discussed were effect on children of HIV/AIDS, conflict and communal violence, discrimination against minorities, access to and quality of education, rural poverty and costs of education, urban poverty, child labour and girls education.

(c) Governement fully recognises the NGOs and civil society can play a significant role in education of children.

(d) and (e) The following three Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) were awarded by the National Literacy Mission on the occasion of International Literacy Day, 2003, for achieving over 90% success in promoting Female Literacy under the Accelerated Female Literacy Project (AFLP) in Uttar Pradesh:

1. Chetna Seva Sansthan, District Rampur, Uttar Pradesh
2. Ashadeep Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh
3. Anam Mahila Kalyan Samiti, District Rampur, Uttar Pradesh.

Improvement of Science Education in Schools

428. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central scheme called the Improvement of Science Education in Schools is under implementation to improve quality of science education and promote scientific temper in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) what is the present status of the implementation of the scheme in the Southern States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Centrally sponsored scheme of

Improvement of Science Education in Schools providing for financial assistance to the States/Union Territories for provision of science kits to upper primary schools, setting up/upgradation of science laboratories, library facilities in secondary/senior secondary schools and training of science and mathematics teachers. Under the scheme assistance is also available to the voluntary organizations for undertaking innovative and experimental projects in the field of science education.

(c) State-wise details of the financial assistance provided under the scheme during the last five years is as here under:

Rs. in Lakhs

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Year	Amount Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1999-2000	480.00
2.	Karnataka	2001-2002	28.22
		2002-2003	500.00
3.	Kerala	1997-1998	175.22
		1999-2000	399.92

Promotion of Bal Sahitya

429. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme or strategy has been evolved by Government to promote children literature (Bal Sahitya); and

(b) whether the Government have introduced any award for promoting Bal Sahitya, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The National Book Trust, India (NBT) is an autonomous organization set up under this Ministry to produce and encourage production of good literature, and to make such literature available at moderate prices to the public. The NBT has been working to produce and promote meaningful literature for children. It has developed a rich collection of children's literature, with this objective, the National Central for Children's Literature (NCCL) was set up in the NBT in 1993 as a coordinating agency to promote children's literature in all Indian lanuguages. Following activities are undertaken under NCCL: